

Allen Dulles Has to Find, Keep Secrets

His Agency Keeps President Briefed

WASHINGTON, Apr. 8 (AP).

Given a brain, a mouth and an ego to match, most people find it difficult to keep a secret.

This, in the opinion of a man whose life is devoted to keeping and breaking secrets, is especially true of Americans. The Russians and English are better at keeping their mouths shut. Americans, by nature, are extroverted, ebullient, ambitious.

"These are fine qualities for the insurance business but not intelligence work," Allen Welsh Dulles, director of the Central Intelligence Agency, told a friend recently.

"For most of us, the urge to show we know more than the next fellow can be a terrible temptation. Keeping secrets is difficult and you have to be trained for it. Even I have an itch now and then to tell more than I should," he said.

The itch, in Mr. Dulles' case, never gets irresistible. It was totally nonexistent one night in September, 1959, at an elaborate White House dinner for a foreign visitor. Coming through the receiving line, Mr. Dulles was introduced by President Eisenhower to a man named Nikita S. Khrushchev.

"Oh, I know of you," Mr. Khrushchev grinned. "I read your reports."

Saving Suggested

Later, over after-dinner cigars, Mr. Dulles was led back to Mr. Khrushchev by Vice-President Nixon.

"You know Mr. Dulles, don't you?" Mr. Nixon said.

"Oh, yes, I read your reports," said the Russian dictator.

"I hope you get them legally," said the American intelligence chief.

"Oh, yes," said Mr. Khrushchev in a renewed burst of coexistence comedy, "we get these reports from the same sources and the same agents. It's a pity that we don't get together and pay these agents only once and save money."

"Well, this would be a kind of sharing the wealth program," Mr. Dulles said, and the conversation ended.

Ending that dialogue was easy. But there are other times, with people far more innocuous than Mr. Khrushchev, when



Allen W. Dulles

Mr. Dulles must consciously apply the brakes. This is especially true after a long day at the office followed by an evening with friends in innocent conversation about the state of the world.

Has Awesome Job

As head of the most secret agency of government, Allen Dulles bears the awesome job of keeping the President and National Security Council regularly informed on developments behind the Iron Curtain in Laos, Cuba, the Congo and other trouble spots.

Much of the American position adopted in foreign affairs and military matters is based on the almost daily reports and appraisals President Kennedy finds on his desk from the C. I. A. The agency is both a prime coure and a clearing house. It correlates information from its own sources and from intelligence branches of the State and Defense Departments to form a total intelligence picture for the guidance of the President.

A large percentage of that picture is based on analysis of overt material—foreign technical journals, official and semiofficial statements, press stories, books, maps, radio broadcasts, routine reports of American officials abroad. More than 200,000 pieces of "open literature" flow into the C. I. A. document center a month.

Spies Provide Some

A small part of the total picture comes from clandestine sources, from agents, from defectors, from the perennial mercenary of espionage who is in the business only to sell information. The number of secret documents reaching C. I. A. each week runs into "the thousands."

It is not the melodramatic blood-bath pictured in fiction, it is still a highly dangerous busi-

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AGENTS do disappear. Agents do get killed without even their families knowing what they were doing to get killed.

At sixty-eight, Mr. Dulles does not resemble his brother, the late Secretary of State John Foster Dulles. Nothing in his manner suggests the nation's master spy operating in the shadows of the world. He more resembles a contented museum curator worrying, at most, about the chip on a plantagenet crossbow, or the head judge at a Sussex flower show cheerfully about to disqualify the vicar's hybrid tea rose.

Headed C. I. A. Since '53

Mr. Dulles has had a long career in intelligence—he worked abroad in the two world wars and has headed C. I. A. since 1953.

He is alternately amused by the crudities of Russian propaganda and respectful of the high professional caliber of Russian espionage and security.

"Russian security is a far harder nut to crack than the Germans' was. Their controls are much tighter. People don't come in and out of Russia even the way they did in Nazi

Germany during the war," he says.

"The Russian system, of course, is better geared to security. Theirs is a closed society. In our country, for example, it is difficult not to advertise our missile locations, while the Russians have vast areas they can close off.

"We still reveal too much, unlike the Russians. Go through our technical journals and you'll find ten times as much of value to an intelligence man as we find in the Russian magazines."